

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 53

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 130

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 53—Relative to the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 16, 2004.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 53, Reyes. The Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation to make the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program permanent.

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is considered to be the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in every major ethnic group in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is still the number one cancer killer of women between the ages of 15 and 54 years; and

WHEREAS, More than two million women are living with breast cancer in the United States today, but one million of them have not been diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Breast cancer claims another woman's life every 15 minutes; and

WHEREAS, This year, according to the American Cancer Society, more than 200,000 women and men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and, of that number, 40,000 will die from this devastating disease; and

WHEREAS, The Breast Cancer Research Stamp was created through the dedicated research efforts of Kaiser Permanente surgeon Dr. Ernie Bodai; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 1585 (Public Law 105-41), also known as the "Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act," was passed by Congress in August 1997; and

WHEREAS, The Breast Cancer Research Stamp, which was put into circulation in 1998, is among the most successful commemorative stamps of all time; and

WHEREAS, The Breast Cancer Research Stamp is sold with a surcharge above the price of an ordinary first-class stamp, which now costs 37 cents; and

WHEREAS, The Breast Cancer Research Stamp sells for 45 cents, 37 cents of which is used to pay for the stamp and, after recovering costs for program administration, the surplus is allocated to the National

Institutes of Health and the United States Department of Defense for breast cancer research; and

WHEREAS, Since this stamp was put into circulation in 1998, the program has generated more than \$37 million for breast cancer research; and

WHEREAS, People wanting to make a difference and personally contribute to the fight against breast cancer have purchased over 517 million of the semi-postal stamps; and

WHEREAS, Grant funds from the “Insight Awards to Stamp Out Breast Cancer,” which are derived from the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program, help to fund vital research programs at Stanford University, the University of California, Irvine, and the University of California, San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Breast Cancer Research Stamp has funded 86 breast cancer research projects to date; and

WHEREAS, Permanent extension of the life of the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program will continue funding for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program; and

WHEREAS, In addition to providing much-needed funding for breast cancer research, the Breast Cancer Research Stamp is an effective means of raising awareness about the disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation making the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program permanent; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

